operation step **162** is also provided in this embodiment and a cover sensor **20** detects when the front cover is opened at step **164**. When this occurs, a timer is started at step **166**, and following this the motor is incrementally energized to move the actuator to the loading position at step **168**. Although any time period can be set, in an exemplary embodiment a time period of five seconds may be used. In this embodiment, the motor shaft is uni-directional. In other words, the motor is not reversible.

At step **170** the controller inquires as to whether the timer has expired or not. If the timer has not expired then at step **170** the controller inquires as to whether the actuator is at the loading position or not as determined by the actuator. If it is determined that the actuator is not at the loading position, then the methodology at step **174** requires the user to remove the refill container. Upon completion of step **174** the methodology returns to step **168** and the motor is incrementally energized to move the actuator, and steps **170** and **172** are repeated. If at step **170** it is determined that the timer is expired, then the controller turns the motor off at step **178**. Alternatively, if at step **170** it is determined that the timer has not expired, but that the actuator is at the loading position at step **172**, then the motor is turned off. Upon completion of step **178** the process, at step **180**, returns to main operation when the front cover is closed as determined by the sensor **20**.

This methodology is advantageous in that the dispensing system can be configured to automatically jog or rotate the motor shaft upon opening of the front cover. The motor then gives power somewhat continuously until the actuator is returned to the proper position. If the pump is stalled, the actuator will not return to its loading position until the stalled pump and refill container are removed. If the pump is not stalled, then the motor shaft rotates and then shuts off since the actuator is in the correct position from the last cycle of the pump actuator. Regardless of whether the pump was stalled or not, the actuator would be left in the proper position to accept a new refill container. The timer feature prevents battery drain.

In still another embodiment shown in FIG. **6**, a methodology is designated generally by the numeral **200**. A main operation step **202** is also provided in this embodiment, but in contrast to the other embodiments, does not require the opening of a cover. Instead, at step **204**, the hand sensor **24** detects the presence of an object such as a user's hand. When this occurs, at step **206** a pump actuation cycle is started. This is initiated by the controller **56** receiving an indication of the presence of an object by the sensor **24** and initiating rotation of the reversible shaft **27** by the motor **26**. As in the previous embodiments, rotation of the shaft engages the linkage **44** and begins actuation of a dispensing cycle. During the dispensing cycle, the controller **56** monitors the current sensor **28** to detect the amount of current drawn by the motor **26**. At step **210** the controller periodically monitors the amount of current drawn by the motor as determined by the sensor **28**. If the sensor **28** does not detect a current overload or other abnormality at step **210**, then at step **212** the controller **56** continues with the dispensing cycle operation at step **212** and upon completion thereof returns the operation to the main operation step **202**.

However, if at step **210** a current overload or other motor operating abnormality is detected such as by detecting a predetermined level of current or any amount of current over the predetermined level of current, then the controller **56** instructs the motor **26** to reverse the rotational direction of the shaft **27** so as to return the actuator, via the linkage **44** from an actuating or other intermediate position, to a loading position as determined by the position sensor **46**. Upon completion of step **214** the process returns to the main operation at step **202**.

This methodology is advantageous in that the system can be configured to automatically reverse motor direction upon detection of the motor drawing an abnormal or excess amount of current. It is presumed that the drawing of an abnormal amount of current is an indication that there is some type of interference with the linkage mechanism and/or the pump actuator **40** that prevents a full completion of an operational cycle. Such a feature does not require the use of a cover sensor or key reader component as in the other embodiments and provides a simpler method of reversing a stalled pump in comparison to the other embodiments while still providing the same desired benefits.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing methodologies it will be appreciated that various scenarios can be utilized to reset the pump actuator to a loading position so that a stalled pump can be easily corrected without damage to the refill container or the occurrence of undesired dispensing events. This saves on loss of fluid from the refill container and also prevents possible damage to the operating mechanism of the dispensing system.

Thus, it can be seen that the objects of the invention have been satisfied by the structure and its method for use presented above. While in accordance with the Patent Statutes, only the best mode and preferred embodiment has been presented and described in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited thereto or thereby. Accordingly, for an appreciation of the true scope and breadth of the invention, reference should be made to the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for resetting a stalled pump in a fluid dispensing system, the method comprising:

detecting the presence of a user's hand to start a pump actuator associated with a refill container;

monitoring a current sensor associated with a motor that actuates said pump actuator by rotating a motor shaft in a first direction; and

reversing said motor shaft in a second direction to return said pump actuator to a starting position when said current sensor detects a predetermined level of current.

2. The method according to claim **1**, further comprising:

sensing a position of said pump actuator with a position sensor; and

stopping reversal of said motor shaft in said second direction when said pump actuator returns to a loading position.

3. The method according to claim **2**, further comprising:

completing a dispense cycle by said pump actuator if said current sensor does not detect said predetermined level of current.

4. A dispensing system comprising:

a refill container filled with product;

a housing adapted to accept said refill container;

a pump maintained by either said refill container or said housing so as to dispense product from said refill container, wherein said pump has a loading position and a dispensing position; and

a mechanism associated with said pump wherein said mechanism is configured to automatically return said pump to said loading position when a stall condition is detected.

5. The system according to claim **4**, wherein said mechanism comprises

a controller connected to said pump;

a hand sensor connected to said controller;